

not gallop through the streets, and shoot and yell. They had a specie of moral discipline which developed moral courage. They did right because it was right."

To be a Ranger is to stand in long shadow cast by some of our Nation's most famous lawmen. The tradition of the Rangers is one of intelligence, duty, honor, toughness, and self-reliance. I can think of few better images of the modern Texas Ranger than Captain Caver.

I am pleased to call this great lawman a friend, to salute him, and to thank him for his service to the people of Texas. His leadership and experience will be irreplaceable to the Rangers and he will be sorely missed by all west Texans, whether they knew him or not.

It is my honor to represent Captain Caver here in Washington. I wish him well as he finds and explores the new challenges in his life.

SALUTING NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the National Bar Association that will hold its 83rd national convention in Houston, Texas. Many of its activities will be in the 18th Congressional District. The National Bar Association was formulated when its membership or its members were rejected in their attempt to be members of the American Bar Association.

Out of that creation came the opportunity to be at the cutting edge of civil rights legislation and litigation.

I want to salute the Houston Lawyers Association, salute the past presidents, the president and board of directors, and particularly I want to salute the National Bar Association for its enormous history of civil rights fighting, fighting for those who cannot speak for themselves.

Lawyers of the National Bar Association are patent lawyers, prosecutors, defense lawyers, and most of all, the holders and protectors of the Constitution. They have fought the cases in desegregating schools. They have provided opportunities for those who have sought equal employment. Yes, Mr. Speaker, they are in fact the conscience holders of the legal bar because the National Bar Association continues to stand for justice and equality and opportunity.

I am so proud that they are coming to Houston, Texas, to celebrate the 83rd annual convention, an organization of lawyers that have put forward the cause of justice. I salute them and congratulate them.

□ 1930

HIGH ENERGY PRICES

(Mr. SALI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SALI. Mr. Speaker, today the low-income families and other disadvantaged Americans are disproportionately affected by high energy prices.

Just to be clear, this is about low income. It's about the poor. It's about veterans, seniors and children. We have reached a point where our poorer citizens are spending greater and greater percentages of their limited income on energy.

With the average cost of fuel more than \$4.05 per gallon, some now have to determine whether they can get to work or even buy food. This price tag and the fact that this body hasn't done anything about it are wreaking havoc on the daily lives of Idahoans and Americans across the Nation.

Just last week I talked to a woman from Idaho whose husband is disabled and not eligible to receive disability benefits. She is the sole source of income for her family. She was worried about just being able to afford to get to work.

It's time for partisanship to be put aside. It's time for Congress to act, and it's time to increase American production of crude oil and natural gas.

HONORING FIRE CHIEF FRANK WICHLACZ

(Mr. KAGEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KAGEN. Mr. Speaker, it has been said that when a man becomes a fireman, his greatest act of bravery has been accomplished. What he does after that is all in the line of work.

Well, yesterday in my district in northeast Wisconsin, the Pulaski community began to mourn the tragic death of Fire Chief Frank Wichlacz, a volunteer firefighter who died in a freak accident on Wednesday. The 76 year-old Chief Wichlacz gave 50 years of service to the department, which serves parts of Brown, Oconto, and Shawano counties. The last 20 years he served as chief.

In 2007, Chief Wichlacz was honored as an Everyday Hero by the Green Bay Press-Gazette newspaper for his long years of service to his community. You know Winston Churchill said, "You make a living by what you get, but you make a life by what you give." Frank Wichlacz lived those words.

His service, not only as a volunteer firefighter, but as a fire chief, made the Pulaski community a safer and better place to live. On behalf of the people of the Eighth District in northeast Wisconsin, allow me to express my deepest sympathy to his family and friends and to all in the Pulaski community.

May God bless Chief Wichlacz.

NEW HAMPSHIRE STORM

(Ms. SHEA-PORTER asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Mr. Speaker, today a terrible storm hit across the State of New Hampshire. There has been death and destruction in five counties, and we have declared a state of emergency there. I am asking for the prayers of this country for the people of New Hampshire. They're a strong lot. For ages they have helped one another build their homes, their barns, their stone walls, their businesses. I know that they will find the resources once again to help each other through this calamity.

I ask the people of the country and the Congress to keep their thoughts and prayers on the people of New Hampshire tonight.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

OUR ROLE AS THE WORLD'S INDISPENSABLE NATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, tonight I rise to continue my series of discussions about the future of American grand strategy. Last week I suggested that we strive to remain and even bolster our role as the world's indispensable nation, and that should guide our thinking as we consider the imperatives that define our national interest.

Indispensable nation is a term with significant potential for misunderstanding, particularly in this time when our global credibility has ebbed. We must be careful how we explain our intent. Most importantly, we must ensure that our actions meet our words.

Just as a person cannot demand respect, only earn it, so it is for nations too. So we should define indispensable to mean that we inspire by our standards, not coerce, with our demands. We should strive to be indispensable, not because our wrath is feared, but because our strength is valued.

The point is, it's a fine one but essential nonetheless that our role as the world's indispensable nation cannot come by internal proclamation, but rather by external validation.

The engines of our claim to leadership in the future are the engines that made this country great in the first place, our robust economy that provides opportunity while connecting us with the rest of the world in productive partnerships and in our unceasing pursuit of what is right, fair and just, even when we fall short of those ideals. To the extent we veered off course in those areas, whether because of crippling energy dependence, unprecedented levels

of foreign debt, our departure from sound constitutional practices, or even when and how we marshal our forces for war, we must refocus internally to address those challenges and master them once again.

If we redouble our efforts, we can recapture the international prestige that more than anything else translates our unmatched power into the ability to alter the course of world events. As part of this course correction, we must recall the essential truths about war and international relations that were stated so well by Clausewitz and Sun Tzu. I mentioned several of these to our current president in 2002, but we lost sight of these truths in Iraq.

As we do that, there is no reason why we cannot gain the confidence to understand that the term "challenge," even in the international context, need not always have an adversarial meaning. In our daily life we are challenged by those around us, and we come out the better for it.

We are challenged by our professors to be better students. We are challenged by our coaches to be better athletes. We are challenged by our clergy to be better people. We are challenged by our spouses to be better partners.

All of these relationships help refine us, and, in so doing, enrich our lives so that all benefit. We might regard many of our international challenges in much the same way. In the free marketplace of ideas, are those ideas that the United States exemplifies clearly superior? Do we remain the guarantor of liberty and the natural ally against tyranny? Do we provide the best economic and social opportunities for all people with whom we interact?

We need not see that as solely an external challenge. It's also a challenge within ourselves, and we should not miss the opportunity to refine the good things about America so that we remain the obvious, the indispensable choice for a continued global leadership role.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) is recognized for 5 minutes. (Mr. MCHENRY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

SOLVE THE ENERGY CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, another week has gone by, and we have taken no action whatsoever, no action whatsoever to solve the energy crisis. I listened to the majority leader during the 1-minute talking about what's going on next week as far as legislative action is concerned, and he said that even if there were more oil leases available, he said there are no drills available.

Well, if there are no drills available and the oil companies feel that there is oil down there, they are going to make drills that would be available. The problem is on the oil leases that are available right now, the oil companies aren't finding sufficient oil to be able to put up a \$2 billion oil platform to drill, and we are only using 3 percent of our Outer Continental Shelf for drilling purposes and for these leases.

If we make more of the continental shelf available these oil companies are going to get out there, they are going to get these oil leases, and they will find oil. Geologically they will survey it. They will find oil, and they will drill. They will find the drilling capacity, they will find the drilling equipment, they will build the \$2 billion platforms, and they will drill. But they will have to make sure it's economically feasible, or they won't do that.

You know, if we have more production, we are going to have lower gas prices, there is just no question about that. Every week that we go out of here like today, we are ending another week, we are going home, we haven't done anything to increase the supply which will lead to lower gas prices and lower energy prices.

I listened to the hyperbole during these talks on the floor. I listened to everybody giving reasons why we are not doing this or why we are not doing that, and the fact of the matter is we are not doing anything, and the American people are still suffering. They are spending \$70, \$80, \$90 just to fill their gas tanks. They don't know what they are going to do. They can't get to work, they can't take their kids to school. It's affecting everything that we buy, our clothes, our food, everything.

As a result, we are facing not only energy problems, we are facing an economic problem, an inflationary problem. We are not doing a darn thing about it.

We need to drill wherever we can to find oil, in the ANWR, if necessary, off the continental shelf. We need to open up the other 97 percent of the continental shelf to drilling. If we do that I guarantee you, I guarantee there will be leases, and the oil companies will find the platforms necessary and the drilling equipment necessary to drill for that oil. If they can make money doing it, they are going to do it.

The leases they have right now, if they are not going to find oil down there, it's not sufficient, they are not going to put a \$2 billion platform down there and drill for that oil. That's why we need to open up more of these areas of the continental shelf for drilling.

Remember, and I hope the American people listen to this, 97 percent of the continental shelf is not being explored or even allowed to be explored. That's terrible. We know we need energy, and we are sending \$700 billion to the Saudis, to South America and other countries when we had that energy right here in America.

Somebody said, well, it will take 10 years to get that oil to market if we drill for it. Well, I don't think it will take that long, but let's say it does. We need to get started sometime, and we were going to start in the 1970s, and we didn't do anything. We are in a worse situation today than when we had the oil embargo.

We need to start. We need to move toward energy independence.

I will submit to you that before the end of this session, before September 30, we have an opportunity to end the moratorium on drilling off the continental shelf and elsewhere. The moratorium on drilling off on the continental shelf and elsewhere in this country expires September 30. The only way that moratorium can continue is if we pass legislation to continue it. So I believe, and I know that there will be legislation before this body and the end of September that will extend that moratorium.

I would like to say to my colleagues, both Democrat and Republicans, we need to vote against that moratorium extension. If it's in a spending bill or any other kind of a bill, we need to stop that bill from being passed as long as that moratorium is in there, because the American people are demanding, demanding that we do something about this energy crisis. They are demanding that we move toward energy independence.

They want alternative fuels. They want alternative sources of energy. They want solar, they want wind, they want all of that. We have seen all of that on television, but during this transition period, they want energy. The only way we are going to get it is to drill for gas and oil.

We can do that if we end that moratorium. I would like to say to my colleagues, Democrat and Republican, let's get together in the next month, end that moratorium, not allow any legislation to go through that will extend that moratorium, so we can move toward energy independence.

If you don't believe that the people in this country are concerned about it, go to any gas station in this country, the next week when you are home or next weekend when you are home, and you will find that everybody is madder than hell about this. I was getting gas the other day, and I heard a guy say to his child, "Come here, son, do you want to help me spend some of your college education?"

I am not kidding. He didn't know I was there. He had a pickup truck, and he said to his son, "Come here, I want you to see how we are spending part of your college education." We need to move toward energy independence, we need to drill, and we need to do it now.

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The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida addressed the House. Her remarks will